



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia State Board of Social Services announces new officers

Trudy Brisendine of Woodbridge will serve as vice chair

Richmond – Prince William County’s Trudy Brisendine has been elected to serve as vice chair of the State Board of Social Services for the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). Her term as vice chair began July 1, 2007.

“We are delighted that Ms. Brisendine will continue her service on the board,” said Anthony Conyers Jr., VDSS commissioner. “Her experience and guidance have made the board stronger and more effective.”

The State Board of Social Services consists of nine members appointed by the governor. The board is designed to include members from each region of the state, and Brisendine was originally appointed to represent the Northern Virginia region by former Governor Mark Warner. She also currently chairs the board’s Poverty Committee, which is looking at ways to increase awareness of this issue statewide.

“Virginia provides social services to a widespread and diverse population. The needs are genuine, and board policies must incorporate hope for the future and the expectation of real improvements in the lives of our vulnerable citizens if we are to be successful. I look forward to working with the city and county agencies which implement these policies and serve our families and neighbors,” Brisendine said.

A 19-year-resident of West Ridge, Brisendine has lived in Northern Virginia for 35 years. Retired from the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, she served as a legislative liaison for human services issues for Fairfax and was previously vice president for National Industries for the Severely Handicapped, Inc. in Vienna. Brisendine also is the president of the board of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, a non-profit organization providing parenting education and supportive services to victims of child abuse and neglect.

Brisendine will continue to represent her region, which includes Louisa, Spotsylvania, King George, Orange, Greene, Madison, Rockingham, Page, Culpeper, Stafford, Prince William, Fauquier, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren, Frederick, Clarke, Loudoun, and Fairfax Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Arlington, Manassas, Manassas Park, Fredericksburg, Winchester and Harrisonburg.

Members of the State Board of Social Services are chosen based on qualifications that demonstrate each member's suitability to consider and act upon the various needs and decisions within the board's area of responsibility. Duties include providing guidance and advice to the VDSS commissioner on matters that arise throughout the social services system. The board investigates questions and resolutions to issues and provides updates, findings and recommendations to the governor or commissioner. The board also adopts regulations as may be necessary and examines potential fiscal impact of such regulations on local boards.

The Virginia Department of Social Services home office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs, consistent with federal and state law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services throughout the Commonwealth. The VDSS mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."

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